

Memorandum

Date: May 22, 2007

To: Ivan Paulsen
Department of Fish and Game
Post Office Box 1858
Portola, California 96122

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: Lake Davis Creel Census-2002

This memorandum summarizes and documents a survey of fishing at Lake Davis, Plumas County in 2002 by the Department of Fish and Game. The survey was conducted to monitor angling use and catch following rediscovery of illegally introduced northern pike in the lake in 1999.

DFG Fish and Wildlife Scientific Aid Terry Banka surveyed anglers at various access sites around the lake (See USFS Description and Map of Lake Davis Recreation Area). She censused 481 anglers during 9 days of the 203-day Sierra Trout Season, April 27 to November 15 and 23 anglers on three pre-season days (Table 1). Although Lake Davis can be legally fished all year, angling use in winter and early spring is greatly reduced by inclement weather and ice and snow conditions on and around the lake.

During the entire survey period, 503 anglers were interviewed. They had fished 1,866.5 hours with an observed catch (fish kept) of 277 rainbow trout and one brown trout. In addition, 98 rainbow trout were reported to have been caught and released (Table 2). About 64 percent of the shore anglers observed on the surveyed days were censused, and 27 percent of the boat anglers.

Boat anglers totaled 220 and fished 979.75 hours with a recorded catch of 172 rainbow trout, one brown trout, and one northern pike. Boat anglers reported catching and releasing an additional 60 rainbow trout and one brown trout. Shore anglers totaled 283 and fished 886.75 hours with a recorded catch of 105 rainbow trout. They also reported catching and releasing 38 additional rainbow trout.

About 69 percent of the anglers interviewed at Lake Davis in 2002 said they lived in California and 31 percent were from Nevada.

Angler success varied among the several surveyed locations around the lake. The highest catch rates for boat anglers were at Mallard Cove and Honker Cove, where most of the boat anglers were censused (Table 3). However, boat anglers can fish nearly anywhere on the lake, so the census location is not very meaningful. Shore anglers experienced the best fishing at Fairview Point, Mallard Cove, and Honker Cove. The lowest catch rate was at Coot Bay and Camp Five (Table 4).

The average total length of 141 measured rainbow trout was 399 mm (15.7 inches) with a range of 228 to 530 mm (9.0 to 20.9 inches) (Figure 1). The total length of one measured brown trout was 490 mm (19.3 inches). During the 2001 season the total lengths of trout were measured to the nearest millimeter.

Lake Davis Recreation Area

Beckwourth Ranger District

Lake Davis is located seven miles north of Portola, California. This lake was created in 1967 for recreational opportunities. The Lake Davis Recreation Area offers a wide variety of summer outdoor experiences including: camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, boating, mountain biking, swimming and wildlife viewing. Water-skiing and jet skis are not permitted. Frequent strong winds can cause the lake to become very hazardous for small craft. In the winter, ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are favored activities.



Camping

A concessionaire manages three campgrounds around Lake Davis. Grizzly, Grasshopper Flat and

Lightning Tree Campgrounds have approximately 144 family camping sites, 21 double sites and 1 group site. Campsites may be reserved through Reserve USA (1-877-444-6777 or on-line at www.ReserveUSA.com).

Grizzly and Grasshopper Campgrounds have piped water and flush toilets. Coin-operated showers are available at Honker Cove Boat Ramp. Trailers of up to 35 feet can be accommodated. No hookups are provided. Facilities are usually open from late April through late October. Lightning Tree Campground has vault toilets and is open year-round except when closed by snow.



Fishing

There are twelve fishing accesses on Lake Davis. Some have toilets and picnic tables are available at Coot

Bay Fishing Access. Fishing is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game with a five trout limit and tributary restrictions. If any of the invasive species Northern Pike are caught immediately cut off its head. Below Lake Davis, almost three miles of Big Grizzly Creek is open to fishing for day use on a public access strip. Native and stocked trout occur in the lake.

Varieties include Rainbow, German Brown and Eagle Lake Trout as well as Largemouth Bass and Brown Bullhead.



Boat Launching

Camp Five, Honker Cove, Mallard Cove, and Lightning Tree Boat Ramps all have paved launching ramps, floating boat docks, toilets and paved parking lots. Camp Five Boat Ramp also has a universally accessible Fishing Levee 100 feet long for deeper water fishing.



Hunting

Mule deer, black-tailed deer, waterfowl, quail, and some small game may be hunted in-season in the Lake Davis Recreation Area. The California Department of Fish and Game regulates hunting seasons and permits. Discharging a firearm within 150 yards of a campsite, across or on a Forest road or body of water is prohibited.



Area Interests

Smith Peak Lookout, located about seven miles southwest of the dam, provides a good view of the lake and an opportunity to learn about the job of a fire lookout. It is operated full time during fire season and visitors are welcome. Lake Davis is also home to several interesting species of birds. Eagles and osprey can be seen at different times of the year, as well as hawks and owls.



Supplies

Supplies can be purchased in the town of Portola, seven miles south of Lake Davis.



Drinking Water

Only water from developed recreation sites is maintained for safe drinking. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, and streams should be properly treated before drinking.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Plumas National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas

Beckwourth Ranger District
Box 7, Blairsden, Ca. 96103
Phone: (530) 836-2575
Revised 05/15/06

Lake Davis Recreation Area Plumas National Forest

In Case of Emergency
Fire / Medical / Sheriff:
Call 911

A pay telephone is located in
Grasshopper Flat Campground

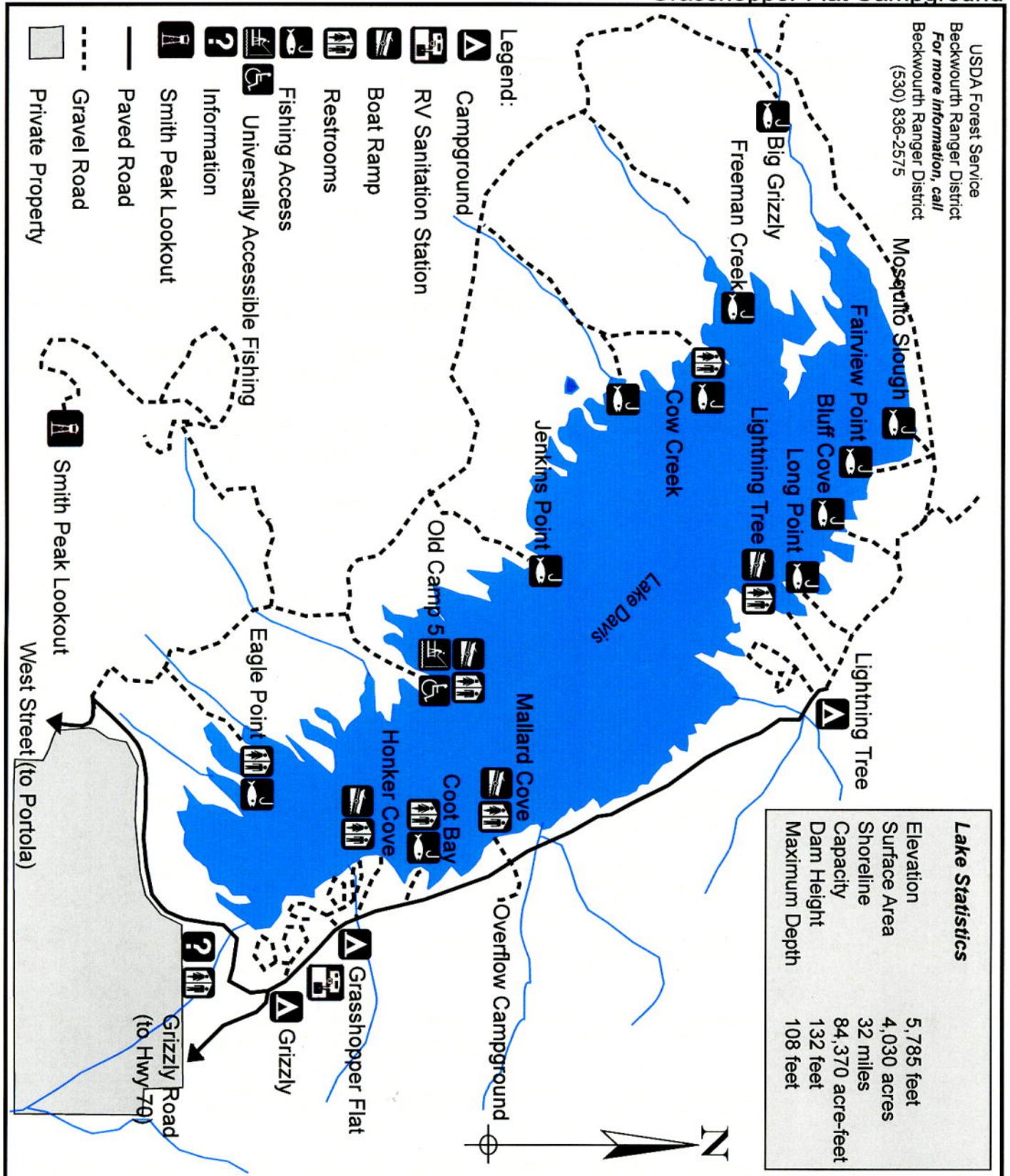


TABLE 1. 2002 RECREATION SEASON STRATA

STRATA	PORTION OF ANGLING SEASON	DAYS IN STRATUM	ANGLERS INTERVIEWED	DAYS SURVEYED	VEHICLE COUNTS
I	April 27-28 (Opening Weekend)	2	44	1	1
II	May 25-27 (Memorial Day Weekend)	3	143	2	2
III	May - June Weekends (plus 9 early season anglers)	16	115	1	1
IV	May - June Weekdays (plus 13 early season anglers)	44	23	1	0
V	July - August Weekends	14	0	0	0
VI	July - August Weekdays	43	0	0	0
VII	September-October-November WE	20	1	0	0
VIII	September-October-November WD	54	109	2	2
IX	July 4 and Labor Day Weekends	7	68	2	2
	Totals for Season	203	503	9	8
	Census Clerks:				
	Terry Banka				

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF ANGLER CENSUS AT LAKE DAVIS, 2002

	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Brown Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R <u>2/</u>	All trout Catch/Hr
Boat Anglers <u>1/</u>	220	979.75	172	2	0.18	60	0.24
Shore Anglers	283	886.75	105	0	0.12	38	0.16
Float Tube Anglers	None	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
All Anglers	503	1,866.50	277	2	0.15	98	0.20
<u>1/</u> plus 1 northern pike							
		<u>2/</u> C&R = Catch and Release					

TABLE 3. CATCH OF TROUT BY BOAT ANGLERS AT LAKE DAVIS BY LOCATION, 2002

Location	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Brown Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R <u>2/</u>	All Trout Catch/Hr
Honker Cove	200	898.00	156	1	0.17	59	0.24
Mallard Cove	6	31.00	9	0	0.29	1	0.32
Miscellaneous <u>1/</u>	14	50.75	7	1	0.16	0	0.16
Totals	220	979.75	172	2	0.18	60	0.24

1/ Miscellaneous = Camp 5, Mosquito Slough, Coot Bay, Grizzly CG, Fairview Point. 2/ Catch and Release

TABLE 4. CATCH OF TROUT BY SHORE ANGLERS AT LAKE DAVIS BY LOCATION, 2002

Location	Anglers Interviewed	Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Kept	Brown Trout Kept	Kept Trout Catch/Hr	RT & BN Trout C&R <u>2/</u>	All Trout Catch/Hr
Fairview Point	38	84.75	19	0	0.22	1	0.24
Honker Cove	61	304.50	46	0	0.15	6	0.17
Mallard Cove	137	371.25	35	0	0.09	27	0.17
Miscellaneous <u>1/</u>	9	25.00	2	0	0.08	3	0.20
Coot Bay	30	64.75	2	0	0.03	1	0.05
Camp 5	8	36.50	1	0	0.03	0	0.03
Totals	283	886.75	105	0	0.12	38	0.16

1/ Miscellaneous = Grizzly CG, Grizzly Valley Dam, Five Tree Point. 2/ Catch and Release

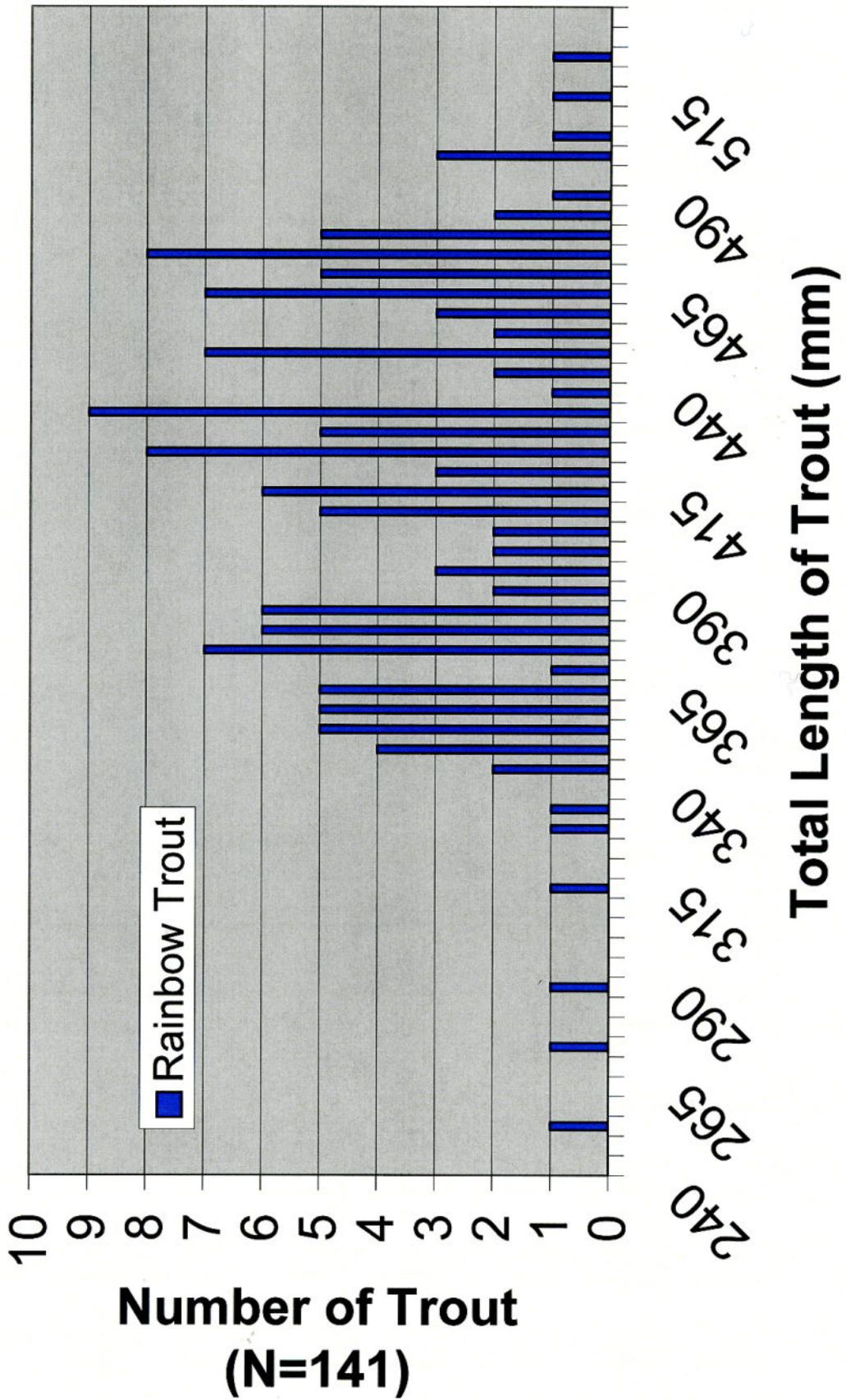
TABLE 5. TROUT PLANTING SUMMARY FOR LAKE DAVIS, 2002

Species	Date	Number	Pounds	Number/lb.
Eagle Lake Rainbow	05/02/01	8,820	4,200	2.1
Eagle Lake Rainbow	05/13/02	4,800	2,000	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	05/13/02	10,560	4,400	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	05/14/02	5,280	2,200	2.4
Eagle Lake Rainbow	05/22/02	8,400	4,200	2.0
Eagle Lake Rainbow	06/05/02	8,200	4,100	2.0
Rainbow Trout	06/28/02	80	62	1.3
Rainbow Trout brood	06/28/02	20	72	3.6 lbs ea.
Eagle Lake Rainbow	07/23/02	4,000	2,000	2.0
Totals		50,160	23,234	2.2

TABLE 6. BOAT RAMP USE, 2002

Ramp	Percent
Honker Cove	77%
Mallard Cove	18%
Coot Bay	5%
Lightning Tree	0%
Total	100%

**FIGURE 1. LENGTH OF RAINBOW TROUT
CAUGHT AT LAKE DAVIS IN 2002**



DFG planted 50,060 catchable-sized Eagle Lake rainbow trout and 100 rainbow trout broodstock in Lake Davis between May 2 and July 23, 2002 (Table 5).

On 8 survey days, three times each day, Banka also counted boat trailers, vehicles with cartop boats, other vehicles, and shore anglers at Honker Cove, Coot Bay, Mallard Cove, and Lightning Tree boat ramps. This information was intended to provide estimates of boat and shore fishing and total catch for the 203-day season.

However, use counts made during only eight days is not enough to cover all segments of the season. No use counts were collected on May – June weekdays, during July and August, or on September, October, and November weekends. The days sampled were in periods of high use and catch (holidays, spring and early summer periods, including the Lake Davis Fishing Derby), while no days were sampled during low use and catch periods (July and August, and fall weekdays). For these reasons, reasonably accurate estimates of fishing use and catch could not be calculated.

Over 95 percent of the observed vehicles were at Honker Cove and Mallard Cove boat ramps in 2002 (Table 6). About 93 percent of the boats were trailered and 7 percent cartop. Nearly 63 percent of the vehicle license plates were from California, with just over 37 percent from Nevada and one other state.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (530) 529-7393 or hintonr@water.ca.gov.



Ralph N. Hinton
Retired Annuitant

cc: Kathy Hill
Fisheries Management District Supervisor
Department of Fish and Game, Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

Lori Powers
Department of Fish and Game
Portola Field Office
Post Office Box 1858
Portola, California 96122

Julie Cunningham
Department of Fish and Game
Portola Field Office
Post Office Box 1858
Portola, California 96122